

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

090912Z Nov 01

2001HOCHI01266 - UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ5584

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ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	UTED-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	OPIC-01	PC-01	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/007W					

-----3C29DE 091009Z /38

FM AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5683
INFO AMEMBASSY HANOI PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA
ASEAN COLLECTIVE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS HO CHI MINH CITY 001266

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/BCLTV AND EAP/PD/MSPEER
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR DRL/IRF
CINCPAC FOR FPA
SECDEF FOR ISA/EA/ABLAGG

E.O. 12958: N/A

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TAGS: PHUM KIRF VM REFFREE HUMANR
SUBJECT: HOA HAO MONK COMES DOWN FROM THE TREE

REF: HANOI 2924

¶1. (U) REFTEL REPORTED THAT ON NOVEMBER 6, HOA HAO BUDDHIST MONK NAM LIEM, OF AN GIANG PROVINCE IN THE MEKONG DELTA, HAD CLIMBED UP A TREE NEAR HIS PAGODA CARRYING A KNIFE AND A CONTAINER OF GASOLINE. HE WAS THREATENING TO IMMOLATE HIMSELF TO PROTEST LOCAL POLICE ENTERING HIS PAGODA AND MAINTAINING A PRESENCE THERE SINCE NOVEMBER 1. AS OF NOVEMBER 8, NAM LIEM WAS STILL UP IN THE TREE. APPROXIMATELY 30 POLICE OFFICERS WERE TRYING TO PERSUADE HIM TO COME DOWN. AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS AND CURIOUS BYSTANDERS WERE ALSO ON HAND.

¶2. (SBU) ON NOVEMBER 9, POLOFF SPOKE BY TELEPHONE TO LE QUANG LIEM (LQL), A HOA HAO ELDER CURRENTLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN HCMC, BUT WHO CONTINUES TO BE WELL INFORMED OF EVENTS REGARDING HOA HAO ISSUES. LQL SAID THAT DURING THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 8, NAM LIEM CUT HIS THIGH WITH THE KNIFE HE HAD CARRIED UP INTO THE TREE. LQL SAID THAT EARLY IN THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 8, NAM LIEM CAME DOWN THE TREE. HE SAID WITNESSES TOLD HIM NAM LIEM APPEARED WEAK WITH WHAT THEY SUGGESTED WAS A LOSS OF BLOOD AND FATIGUE.

¶3. (SBU) AS OF NOVEMBER 9, ACCORDING TO LQL, NAM LIEM REMAINED INSIDE HIS HOME AND PAGODA COMPLEX. LQL ADDED THAT 30 POLICEMEN AND 50-70 LOCAL OFFICIALS WERE ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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INSIDE THE COMPOUND. THE POLICE WERE ENCOURAGING THE LOCAL TOWNSPEOPLE TO STAY AT HOME.

¶4. (U) POST HAS NO WORD YET ON THE STATUS OF NAM LIEM'S HEALTH, OR WHETHER OR NOT LOCAL OFFICIALS WILL TAKE ANY LEGAL/POLICE ACTION AGAINST HIM. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS.

YAMAUCHI

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